

## Lesson 5b More than a Carpenter

### *Jesus Heals the Nobleman's Son*

John 4:46-53

46 Therefore He came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a royal official whose son was sick at Capernaum. 47 When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and was imploring Him to come down and heal his son; for he was at the point of death. 48 So Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you simply will not believe." 49 The royal official said to Him, "Sir, come down before my child dies." 50 Jesus said to him, "Go; your son lives." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and started off. 51 As he was now going down, his slaves met him, saying that his son was living. 52 So he inquired of them the hour when he began to get better. Then they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." 53 So the father knew that it was at that hour in which Jesus said to him, "Your son lives"; and he himself believed and his whole household.

### ***The Power of God's Words***

When God says something, it happens! The God who created the world and the heavens and everything in them just by speaking the word is now speaking to the nobleman, "Go your way; your son lives" (John 4:50). And it was so.

Jesus said that everything promised in the Bible would happen (Matthew 5:18). Do you believe God's Word? Do you act like you believe it—like the man in our story did?

We have responsibility too, if Christ lives in our hearts. In Mark 11:22, 23 Jesus told His disciples, "For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will come to pass, he will have whatever he says." And Jesus explained this further with some important conditions...

"If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you" (John 15:7).

"And whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son" (John 14:13).

"And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us" (1 John 5:14).

The words we speak according to the will of God, backed by faith in God, are powerful. What kind of words do you speak? Do you speak words of encouragement, comfort, trust, and love?

15. Briefly list some of the requirements given in these Scriptures for effective prayer.

### ***What This Passage Teaches Us about Prayer***

Does Jesus answer our requests today? Hebrews 13:8 tells us that Jesus Christ is “the same yesterday, today, and forever.” We know that we must come to Him with our requests. He says that “the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out” (John 6:37b). He tells us to “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you” (Matthew 7:7).

Next, we must come believing that He will answer. “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6).

We must be satisfied with the answer Jesus gives. The nobleman asked Jesus to come down to his house, but Jesus did not choose to do that. Instead, He said, “Go your way; your son lives” (John 4:50). He may not answer you in exactly the way you ask, nor in the time frame you would like, but He will always do what is best for you, and it will always be according to His Word (see Romans 8:28, 29).

Faith does not always bring deliverance (study Hebrews 11:35-39), but faith always brings direction and peace. “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6, 7).

When you believe God, and God works with power, your faith will be strengthened. The faith of your family often will be strengthened too, just as the whole household of the nobleman believed God.

### ***Making It Personal***

16. Do you believe God’s Word? Do you act like you believe it—like the man in our story did?

17. What kind of words do you speak? Do you speak words of encouragement, comfort, trust, and love?

18. Spend some time together in prayer